

The

# Eagle's Eye

Summer 2006

Florida Air National Guard

Volume 6, Issue 2



**New ANG Director  
comes home**



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## STAFF

**Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus**  
FLANG Commander

**Major Richard E. Bittner**  
Editor in Chief

**Tech. Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas**  
Editor

**Major Kevin T. Cotton**  
Contributing Editor and Web Master

**Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers**  
Graphics & Cover Design

## CONTACT

**Address:**  
125FW/PA  
14300 Fang Drive  
Jacksonville, Fla. 32218-7933

**Phone:**  
COM: (904) 741-7030/7031/7032  
FAX: (904) 741- 7028  
DSN: 641-7030/7031/7032  
**E-mail:** [publicaffairs@fljack.ang.af.mil](mailto:publicaffairs@fljack.ang.af.mil)  
**On the Web:** [www.fljack.ang.af.mil](http://www.fljack.ang.af.mil)



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Front Cover : New ANG Director, Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, and the FLANG NCO of the year, Tech. Sgt. Richard L. DaSilva, 114ROPS, at the FLANG 2005 Airman of the year awards ceremony in Jacksonville, Fla., Sunday June 25.

Back Cover: Then Brig. Gen. McKinley (former 125FW commander and ANG Deputy Director at the time) and then Col. Charles V. Ickes II (then 125FW commander and now ANG Deputy Director) pose for a photo at Laage AB, Germany during a 125FW deployment in May 2000.



# Commander's Column

By Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus  
Commander, Florida Air National Guard

The new Director of the Air National Guard appears on the cover of this edition of *The Eagle's Eye*.

We were honored to have him attend our National Guard Association conference and also our Airman of the Year luncheon recently.

The cover of this edition of the *Eagle's Eye* tells us a great deal about Florida's own Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley.

It reveals his heart for the people who make up our great organization and it shows the mindset he brings to the job as he represents the 106,800 officers and enlisted Airmen across the 54 states and territories. We are so grateful he spent some time with us and pray for his success as he leads the Air National Guard of today into the future.

One of the best things we can do to support him is to continue our performance in Florida and build upon our successes.

Quite honestly, financially it's been a difficult year as we have had to do more with less; I would submit it has been one of the most difficult in our history.

Yet, through the storms that included base operating cost reductions, annual training shortfalls and increased fuel cost, we have managed to keep our heads above water.

Our proactive team approach to financial management is something of which I am extremely proud.

With the operational successes of all the FLANG units along with our financially

prudent procedures, we can now move forward to a new fiscal year and new challenges.

Operational challenges will continue. Amid these challenges we will again deploy a large number of our personnel abroad to serve in the Global War on Terrorism.

Our Red Horse Squadron has again been asked to deploy and I couldn't be more proud of how they are answering the call to serve.

It is absolutely astonishing to me when I witness time and again the dedication and willingness of our Airmen to serve our state and nation.

A few weeks ago, I sat with the night shift at the Southeast Air Defense Sector and we shared old weapons controller stories.

I visited our Weather School, Weather Flight, 290th and

*Their presence made a statement... "yes we are busy but nothing is more important than stopping to recognize the people who make our organization so great."*

114th and recently I paused at the conference in June to share stories with pilots from the 159FS and with our new F-22 pilot, Major Tom "House" Kafka.

It doesn't matter where I go in the FLANG. Our people are amazing and *lay it out there* for this great organization.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Susan Shonka and I hosted the Airmen of the Year luncheon at Alltel Stadium in June to recognize our very best.

I mentioned to those in attendance how we appreciated



Lt. Gen. McKinley, our TAG, Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, and soon to be the new two-star ANG Advisor to ACC, Brig. Gen. Emmett Titshaw, being there. Their presence made a statement... *"yes we are busy but nothing is more important than stopping to recognize the people who make our organization so great."* I have had the honor of learning from these great leaders as many of you have and love how they 'get it' and set such a positive example.

I look forward to building upon our great past and working toward a bright future with the newest FLANG general officer, Brig. Gen. (select) Charlie Campbell, whose new position and rank was announced by Major Gen. Burnett during our annual conference. General Campbell will join me at State Headquarters as the new Chief of Staff in early Fall 2006 after his official pinning.

You, the members of the Florida Air National Guard, are the very best and I appreciate your selfless service. Let's continue to work together as a team and make a long-lasting, significant, and positive impact on our great organization!

Thank you for all you do, and I hope you enjoy this edition of *The Eagle's Eye*!

# Airmen of the Year honored at annual National Guard State Conference

By Chief Master Sgt. Susan E. Shonka  
HQ FLANG Command Chief

Photos by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - June 25, in conjunction with the National Guard Association of Florida conference here, the FLANG celebrated another of its achievements, its outstanding Airmen of the year for 2005.

We honored our 13 unit nominees and our six Airmen of the year finalist at a special luncheon conducted at Jacksonville's Alltel Stadium in the Terrace Suite.

More than 140 attendees, including Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, the new Director of the Air National Guard (and former 125FW and SEADS commander), Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, the Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Emmett Titshaw, FLNG Joint Forces HQ Deputy Commander, Brig. Gen. Joe Balskus, FLANG Commander, Chief Master Sgt. Chuck Wisniewski, 125th Fighter Wing Command Chief Master Sergeant, myself and many commanders, chiefs and family members and special guests paid tribute to our enlisted troops.

The luncheon highlighted the achievements of all our Airmen and paid tribute to the teams that support them both on the job and at home.

General Balskus spoke briefly to the outstanding leadership culture in the state of Florida. Special guest speaker, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, Command Chief Master Sergeant of the Air National Guard, spoke of the commitment and hard work necessary to achieve excellence and how it is never done alone.

As I write this more of our Airmen are preparing to deploy in harms way.

I would ask you make a special effort to support them with your prayers and their families with a helping hand, a phone call, and an invitation to dinner or any small kindness that goes beyond lip service.

Let me know how you have helped and we will highlight these efforts in a future column. I wish you a safe and restful summer.



Florida Air National Guard Airmen of the year for 2005 award recipients and nominees for national recognition, pose with their certificates at the award luncheon held at ALLTEL stadium in Jacksonville, Fla. June 25, 2006. Several VIP's attended the event and honored the Airmen with their presence including the Director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, his Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith and TAG.



Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Terrilee V. Terrill

The Airman of the year nominees are listed below with the State submissions to ANG bolded:

## Airman of the Year:

**Senior Airman Antwan L. Stewart - 125FW**  
Senior Airman Joseph S. Pittano - 290JCSS  
Senior Airman Aaron C. Simonds - SEADS  
Senior Airman Jennifer L. Davidson - 202RHS

## NCO of the Year:

**Tech. Sgt. Richard L. DaSilva - 114ROPS**  
Tech. Sgt. Joseph B. Larsen - 202RHS  
Tech. Sgt. Nicole R. Gardner - SEADS  
Tech. Sgt. Elvin Ramirez - 290JCSS  
Tech. Sgt. John E. Smith - 125FW

**Senior NCO of the Year:**

**Senior Master Sgt. Thomas C. Wisser, Jr - SEADS**

Senior Master Sgt. Mirtza B. Class-Sobotker - 290JCSS

Master Sgt. Gretchen L. Sherwood - 125FW

**First Sergeant of the Year:**

**Senior Master Sgt. Robert D. Lee - 114ROPS**

Master Sgt. Terrilee V. Terrill - 125FW

**Honor Guard Member of the Year:**

**MSgt Billie R. Statom, Jr. - SEADS**

TSgt James L. Salgado - 290JCSS

SSgt Valencia T. Chestnut - 125FW

**Honor Guard Program Manager of the Year:**

**Tech. Sgt. Tiffiney A. Kellum - SEADS**

**(also the Air National Guard's Recipient)**

Master Sgt. David M. Lowe - 125FW



NCO of the Year nominee from the Southeast Air Defense Sector, Tech. Sgt. Nicole R. Gardner, poses with Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, the Adjutant General of Florida during the lunch. Gardner was one of five nominees for the NCO category honored at the Airman of the Year luncheon held Sunday June 25, 2006 at ALLTEL Stadium in the Terrace Suite.



Florida Air National Guard Airmen of the year for 2005 unit award recipients pose for a group photo with the playing field of ALLTEL stadium in the background Sunday June 25, 2006. Several VIP's attended the luncheon held in the Terrace Suite and honored the Airmen with their presence including the new director of the Air National Guard, Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, his Command Chief - Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith, and the Adjutant General of Florida, Major Gen. Douglas Burnett.



# New ANG Director comes home

*By Major Richard E. Bittner  
125FW Director of Public Affairs*

Lieutenant Gen. Craig R. McKinley, the 12th and newest Director of the Air National Guard, returned to his hometown of Jacksonville to be a guest speaker at the National Guard Association of Florida's annual conference June 23-25. He also came home to reminisce with old friends and allow current and former members of the Florida Air National Guard to revel in the accomplishments of their state's most successful son.

McKinley, who was born in St Vincent's Hospital in 1952, and spent his early childhood years in the Mandarin neighborhood, freed up an hour for a one-on-one interview to delve into his personal history and discuss his vision for the future of the Air National Guard.

Like many who pursue a career in the United States Air Force, McKinley, wanted to fly fighters. The downsizing of the USAF following Vietnam in 1974, made fighter slots a rarity, so the distinguished AFROTC graduate from Southern Methodist University class of 1974, was chosen to fly T-38's as an instructor pilot.

However, the desire to fly fighter jets lingered.

With his father's family retired and re-established in the Jacksonville area in 1980 after years away, McKinley looked to the 125th Fighter Group (now Fighter Wing) for an avenue into fighters. The 125th had T-33s and F-106s on the ramp back then and McKinley aggressively interviewed for a slot. After a brief stint in the "T-bird" (T-33), he was allowed to fulfill his dream and began his career as a fighter pilot in the F-106.

After McKinley served a few years as an alert pilot, Florida leadership saw promise in the young officer and he rapidly progressed through a series of positions in operations until finally attaining the position of Air Commander as a 37-year-old Major.

The rest, as they say, is history. Roughly 16 years and 10 leadership positions later (to include the commander of the Southeast Air Defense Sector at Tyndall AFB, Fla.) – McKinley is the Director of the Air National Guard.

"I think every job you have is a building block to the next step," asserted McKinley. "The best job you ever have is the one you are in and if you



*Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. Gerold O. Gamble, ANGRC*

take care of the people who work for you in the job you are in and you do it as well as you can, that's the best preparation for your next opportunity."

McKinley assumed the directorship at what could prove to be a very contentious time between the active component (USAF) and the Air Guard due to BRAC and QDR outcomes. A smaller United States Air Force is on the horizon.

He suggests that there is a historical dynamic to work through.

"When I joined the Air National Guard in 1980, we were pretty much a segregated component," said McKinley. "Some people might say that if you compared it to a civil rights type of discussion that we might have had segregation where our active component really didn't want us to play on the first team and those were perceptions." The new Director believes the ANG and the active component have transitioned from segregation to "separate but equal."

Although there is still a noticeable separation, they (USAF) are really trying now to integrate, said McKinley.

"The reasons we perceive in the field that the last four years were tough years is because when you finally get to a point where you fully integrate with such a small amount of resources to do it with, you have to force the two families, the two cultures, which has kind of agreed to get along but in separate but equal ways - you force them together," stated McKinley. "It's a cultural shift, a tectonic shift and I sense that our Air Force and our Guard leadership understand that if we don't make this work, that we could break something very badly."

The Air Force (and the Air Guard) is projected to lose roughly 25 to 30 percent of its airframes in the next five to twenty years, which presumably means the force must get smaller. McKinley will have to meet that challenge considering the ANG has a "state" leadership dynamic the Air Force and Air Force Reserve do not have.

"The Adjutants Generals are the commanders, with their Governors, of our Guard forces and they really know best what size forces they can maintain" said McKinley. "I don't know what the right size is for the Air National Guard... I mean I really don't."

I think that regardless of what we say or do, economics are going to drive a force sizing construct for us and the real answer is going to be what we have left. Is it going to be relevant, is it going to be capable, is it going to be well equipped, and will it be able to do the nation's work in addition to the work of the governors? Those things are going to be debated over the next several years and I know I'm going to be right in the middle of it."

McKinley would like to work with the Adjutants General cooperatively to look at efficiencies; things the Air Guard could do differently, different business practices. And, if reductions are going to be mandated, he'd rather shape the force with the Adjutants General support rather than the Air Force telling him what they are going to give the ANG.

That's what I hope the next few years will bring, added McKinley. With cooperative dialog between the TAGs and the National Guard Bureau, "we will do what's right for America and we'll do what's right for our governors and states."

Another area McKinley suggested was due for change is the Air Directorate itself.

"The Guard Bureau is evolving, it served the field well for many, many years but I think the organization needs some re-looking," said McKinley.

"I can tell you right now that because we are spread in three different locations in Washington (DC) it is very hard to have a span of control where all of our people know exactly what the vision is or how they best fit in it. My goal is to transition

from the office space in Crystal City (Va.) to putting the preponderance of our people at Andrews (AFB, Md.) at the Readiness Center to create an environment there where we have a strong commander brought in from the field, probably at the grade of brigadier general, who can run the Readiness Center, work with the units in the states and let the Deputy Director and I focus on the Adjutants General and the Air Staff."

With regard to integration, McKinley thinks the centers of gravity have shifted to the Pentagon.

The immediate need, according to McKinley, is a full integration of the Air Staff with ANG members so that "we can be in on those ground floor decisions that may have caused some tension during BRAC and QDR."

"We will evolve our senior grade people in Washington to be assistants to the A1, A2 and A3 and probably the A8 to start with and if that works,"

he said "we may fully integrate our staffs on to the Air Staff so that we can work side by side with our active component. I think that in the long term, that's where we need to be."

McKinley's final focus during the interview was directed toward the enlisted corp.

McKinley called the enlisted corps the "lifeblood of the

Air National Guard" and said that great NCO's have always taught him to "treat people the way you would like to be treated, with respect and dignity, to allow people to flourish in their career."

"There are going to be times in every person's life where they are going to go through stresses and strains and you need to understand that and give people a chance to take care of their families because that's still - in our business - the most important thing."

If these guidelines are adhered to, "you will have supporters that will take you to new heights; take you to the top of any game," said McKinley. "Let them be themselves, give them good leadership with good integrity and the rest will take care of itself."

General McKinley opened and closed his remarks discussing Airmen.

I think we are in good hands.



Photo by Maj. (ret.) Debbie Cox, FLNG JFHQ/PA

# From the Cockpit...

By Major David "Fester" Lynch  
159FS Chief of Weapons and Tactics



Normally an overseas deployment takes months if not years to plan and execute. British Royal Navy Lt. Cmdr. Adi Mudge was given just eight weeks.

While already deployed to Norway, a small window of opportunity developed to ship two 849 Squadron British Royal Navy Sea King Mk VII Airborne Surveillance and Control (ASaC) helicopters (similar in function to the USAF AWACS aircraft) to the United States to explore the integration capabilities of their newest system.

Lieutenant Col. Brian Simpler, 159th Fighter Squadron Director of Operations, received an e-

mail from Mudge asking if the 125th F-15A Eagles would be interested in working with the British helicopters in May 2006. Simpler passed the request along to me to answer a few questions. The first: what the heck is a Sea King Mk VII ASAC helicopter?

## **A little back ground.**

Great Britain learned a few lessons from the 1982 Falklands War. That war was fought entirely from Royal Navy aircraft carriers and support ships. The British aircraft carriers are much smaller than their US counterparts, and their smaller size only allows them to launch helicopters and the AV-8 Harrier jet—the first operational vertical takeoff and landing attack aircraft. Unfortunately, this means they can't launch a command and control aircraft such as the US Navy E-2 Hawkeye.

Without an airborne command and control platform, it was very difficult for the Harriers to obtain a comprehensive picture of the air and surface war, making it tougher to engage the Argentinean aircraft and ships.

Great Britain lost several warships because of this lack of early warning knowledge. Though victors in that war, the

British Royal Navy knew it needed to improve its capabilities, and turned to the



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

A British Royal Navy Sea King MK7 helicopter (note the radar on the starboard side) sits on to the 125FW Alert Ramp May 18, 2006.



Westland Company for an answer. Westland partnered with Sikorsky Helicopters in the United States to convert the large Sea King SH-53 helicopter to their needs. The Mk VII variant is the latest result of that conversion. It has advanced Pulse-Doppler radar - the Searchwater 2000, placed on a retractable pod off the starboard side of the helicopter.

Two pilots sit up front to fly the helicopter, and two controllers sit in the back to operate the radar and communicate with the other war fighters. The system's most current software can detect both airborne and ground targets, and can pass that data electronically over a Link-16-based data link.

#### **The deployment.**

The Royal Navy deployed two helicopters and 40 personnel to fly, control and maintain those helicopters for a month-long deployment to NAS Jacksonville May-June. NAS JAX agreed to host Squadron 849 and Mudge rushed to obtain the necessary approvals, working diligently with embassy officials to make it possible in minimum time.

The controllers who work the radar system and who would talk to the F-15 pilots had not directed air-to-air engagements in months. They didn't have the luxury of slowly working up to the task. Their first mission was an eight verses eight large force employment exercise!

There were some 'growing pains' to work through, as with every deployment and it took a few flights to get the data link system fully operational - to find the best locations to station the helicopter to provide control. There was even a language barrier to work through - British verses American forms of English. The learning curve was steep on each end of the radios but in a few short days crews from both sides of the Atlantic were seamlessly working as a team.



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul "Scott" Still*

**British Royal Navy Lt. Frazer Cumming, 849 Squadron ASaC controller, sits at his console in the MK7 May 18, 2006.**



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

**Chief Master Sgt. Ross Thompson, 125th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Pro Super, marshals a British Royal Navy Sea King MK7 helicopter from 849 Squadron on to the 125FW Alert Ramp May 18, 2006. The MK7 was deployed to Jacksonville NAS, Fla. and was providing Airborne Surveillance and Control or ASaC services for training to the 125th Fighter Wing and other area squadrons.**

The ASaC proved particularly helpful to the F-15s when their onboard radar was pointed away from a threat. The helicopter can keep its radar tracking targets in a 360° pattern and at a significant range. In times past, the controllers had to verbally communicate the airspace picture to the pilots.

Now it can be fed directly to the aircraft over a secure datalink and is automatically displayed on the Eagle's tactical situation displays just as the USAF's Airborne Warning and Control (AWACS) aircraft can.

In fact, aside from the accents on the radio and rotor noise in the background, it was impossible to tell this 'new' control system was different from the American version!

This deployment is just the latest example of cooperation between the US and our closest ally, and will pay dividends during our next engagement.

# 114th Range Operation Squadron stands up

## *Patrick's ANG unit takes on rocket command-destroy function for AFSPC*

By Eric Brian  
45SW Public Affairs

The 114th Range Operations Squadron (ROPS) stood up May 5 during a ceremony inside Hangar 750. Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, Florida National Guard Adjutant General, Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus, Florida Air National Guard commander, and Brig. Gen. Mark Owen, 45th Space Wing commander, were among the distinguished visitors.

The 114th Combat Communications Squadron here inactivated and the 114th Range Flight at Cape Canaveral was re-designated the 114ROPS, aligned under Air Force Space Command, 14th Air Force, 45th Space Wing.

The 114ROPS will have multiple missions, including launch operations support to the 45th Space Wing's 1st Range Operations Squadron and operating and maintaining the Ballistic Missile Range Safety Technology (BMRST) systems.

"I remember the first venture with the 114th," said Gen. Burnett. "This has been a journey of success."

Burnett said the Florida Air National Guard has a great relationship with the 45th Space Wing.

"The 114th is the first in the business," said Gen. Owen, who recognized the total-force importance of the Guard unit's mission with the 45th. "It's

appropriate this is happening at the Kitty Hawk of space operations."

The 114th is effectively taking over the command-destroy function from 45th Range Operations, officials said. In late March, members of the 114th



Photo by Staff Sgt. Akintunde O. Akintewe

Led by Lt. Col. Rembert N. Schofield, 114th Commander, the 114th ROPS formed up during a 'stand-up' ceremony May 5 marking, officially, the new Space mission of the 114th.

Range Flight led testing for upgrades to their spaceflight tracking system that will not only streamline the way they receive flight data during a rocket launch, but allow them the ability to destroy a rocket if it steers off course and becomes a threat.

This is an important upgrade for the 114th, whose mission is to sustain space lift range operations for the Air Force by providing Air Force Space Command with BMRST, a mobile range safety and telemetry tracking capability.

One of the upgrades involved hardware which increases the transmitting capability of the Command Destruct System

(CDS). The CDS provides the capability to destroy an erratic vehicle before it can endanger public safety or property. The system has the capability to function as a stand-alone primary command-destroy source. The CDS testing utilized an aircraft that transmitted telemetry and GPS/INS data which was received and processed by the BMRST system to track the aircraft's position.

"This is a huge milestone for the program," said Major Julia Black of the 114th during testing at Cape Canaveral on March 23. "Our primary mission is range safety - to protect the public." Major Black and other

members of the 114th and 1ROPS, 45SW, monitored the testing from a state-of-the-art mobile operations center.

Another upgrade consisted of software that enables the BMRST system to receive data from other range tracking sites.

"This is a new path of how the data is getting to us and how we are processing it," said Major Black, who explained that the Airmen operating in the mobile operations center can continue to track a rocket even when its current "auto tracking" systems are inoperable.

"This is like an insurance policy, to ensure we can continue the mission."

# North to Alaska

## *What a Rush!*

By Major Jeff "Cleaver" Ward  
325FW ANG Associate Unit

As an instructor pilot in an F-15 Fighter Training Unit, I had a unique and exciting opportunity to travel north—way north—and participate in Red Flag Alaska 06-02. This trip was remarkable because the 95th Fighter Squadron sent a Florida ANG member to fly with another active duty squadron. For this TDY, a fellow F-15C Instructor Pilot, Major "Bull" Perryman and I represented the 95FS and worked along side members of the 19th Fighter Squadron at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, on what is termed a "Creek Exchange."

Through this Creek Exchange, we were able to observe and fly with an operational F-15C unit during several of the most demanding missions fighter pilots can face short of wartime.

Originally established in 1975 at Nellis AFB, Nev., Red Flag is a two-week realistic combat training exercise involving the elite aerial forces from the U.S. military, including Guard/Reserve components, and our allies. It is often described as more challenging than actual combat. Similar to its southern cousin, Red Flag Alaska involved more than 70 aircraft striking a high-value target deep in an enemy's territory.

Creek Exchange is simply a two-week pilot swap. It allows for an exchange of information and techniques and lets pilots witness a sister F-15 unit in action.

A Creek Exchange from Tyndall was a unique and important opportunity. From a FLANG perspective, I was able to fly the "best" outfitted F-15s in the active duty inventory – F-15s that have equipment that could soon be installed on the F-15s in Jacksonville. From an instructor pilot's perspective we teach brand new pilots how to fly and employ the F-15 and produce near-mission ready Eagle Drivers. Participating in a Creek Exchange helps us be better instructors to young pilots and re-hack our operational flying perspective.

The benefits of the exchange are many. First, we were able to fly with some recent Tyndall graduates and gain a real-time assessment of our current instructional techniques. Second, we were able to talk with the squadron leadership,



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Mike Moore

Four F-15s from the 19th Fighter Squadron fly around Mt. McKinley, Alaska.

our customer, and gain their perspective of our recent graduates. Third, we were able to participate in Red Flag, hone our own flying skills, and return to Tyndall as more proficient fighter pilots.

As a member of the Tyndall ANG Associate Unit with the potential to remain an instructor at Tyndall for many years, flying these missions with a combat mission ready squadron helps ward off losing touch with the "real world."

The Alaska aircraft are the world's top-of-the-line F-15s. In keeping up with the increasing capability of threat aircraft, the F-15s in Alaska have been uniquely outfitted with awe-inspiring and lethal equipment.

Their aircraft boast the APG-63 V2 Phased Array Radar that allows a pilot to have exponentially more situational awareness than the old radar. They also have the Joint Helmet Mounted Cueing System (JHMCS), which is basically a heads-up display projected on the pilots visor. JHMCS, coupled with the high off-bore sight capability of the AIM-9X, gives the F-15 a huge advantage while maneuvering in a visual environment.

The Eagles also have an on-board GPS, Fighter Data Link, upgraded motors and a VHF radio. All of these "toys" make the Alaska Eagles arguably the most capable air superiority fighters in the world.

The ability to return to Tyndall with a working knowledge of this new equipment is invaluable as an instructor. As you can imagine, flying over the Yukon Range in the USAFs most advanced F-15s was both personally and professionally rewarding.

The only thing I missed out on was the spring salmon run!



# Shooting for the MILSTARS

By Staff Sgt. Jeff J. Strazzere  
290JCSS UPAR

MACDILL AFB, Fla. - Members of the 224JCSS and 290JCSS (Joint Communications Support Squadrons) recently trained along side their active duty counterparts on the AN/PSC-11 SCAMP terminal.

SCAMP is an acronym for Single Channel Anti-jam Man Portable.

This hi-tech piece of tactical satellite communications equipment operates in the Extremely High Frequency (EHF) spectrum, and, because of its unique design, is very secure.

The terminal predominately utilizes the MILSTAR satellite constellation that allows users more flexibility with global communications. One option is cross-linking, that is, sending a signal from one satellite directly to another before returning it to earth.

Janus Research Group instructor Kevin Fields said the class was a big success because there



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jeff J. Strazzere

was plenty of equipment for the students to work with.

All four DoD services were represented in the class from the Joint Communications Support Element based here. The 6th Communications Squadron, another MacDill unit, also had students in the class.

The 125th officially “broke ground” on the long awaited corrosion control facility and acknowledged the already on-going construction of the new base entry facilities in a brief ceremony at the 125FW, Friday, April 21.

Colonel Bob Branyon, 125FW Vice Commander, hosted the event that was attended by Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, the Adjutant General of Florida, and Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus, FLANG Commander, and several other distinguished visitors.

General Burnett (pictured below) thanked the gathered guests and all

those who had made this moment possible in his remarks.

Then (pictured right) Mr. George Lehning, Vice President of BRPH Inc., construction contractor, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Beltran, representing 125th Maintenance, CPT Jeff Moore, representing the USP&FO, Brig. Gen.



Photos by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers



## A Groundbreaking Event

Balskus, and Col. Branyon did the honors of turning those first few shovels full of dirt.

The new corrosion control facility should be completed in the spring of 2007 and, with its addition, eliminates a shortfall in base facilities that have existed since the Wing transitioned from the F-16 to the F-15 in 1995.

The new base entry facilities will be completed this fall and will address a security vulnerability heightened by the events of 9/11.

# Kriner takes charge of SEADS

*By Lt. Col. David R. Barwinski  
SEADS Special Assistant  
to the Director of Support*

TYNDALL AFB, Fla. - June 22 marked a formal change of command ceremony led by Maj. Gen. M. Scott Mayes, Commander Air Forces Northern Command / First Air Force [AFNORTH (1AF)] and Commander Continental United States NORAD Region, as the flag of command of the 601st Expeditionary Air Operations Group (601EAOG) or AF NORTH AOC / 1AF AOC (new name is still in discussion) passed from Col. Charles M. Campbell to Col. David E. Kriner. Campbell has moved on to serve as the Vice Commander for AFNORTH (1AF) and will soon begin acting as the traditional FLANG Chief of Staff at State Headquarters.

In an emotionally charged speech, Campbell bid farewell to the men and women of the Southeast Air Defense Sector. SEADS achieved several milestones under the command of Campbell - most of the

preliminary work in the modernization effort of the Air Operations Center (AOC) building construction and the work required to consolidate three air defense sectors into two was accomplished under his watch.

SEADS will soon stand down and become the AFNORTH AOC / 1AF AOC. Kriner will then be designated the AFNORTH AOC / 1AF AOC Commander/Director. The consolidation of the sectors and the designated organizational title change will likely occur prior to October 2006, predicated upon the completion of the building construction and staffing of the organizational name designation by Air Combat Command and the Air Staff.

Kriner has an extensive military background and is ideally suited for command. He was commissioned in May 1985 through the AFROTC program at the University of Maryland and then attended undergraduate pilot training at Williams AFB,

Ariz. in February 1986. He was a Distinguished Graduate and Outstanding Graduate of the F-15 Replacement Training Unit, Luke AFB, Ariz., and Squadron Officers School. He won the 1994 Counter Air Fighter Long Bow Air-to-Air Competition, and was then selected to attend USAF Fighter Weapons School. Kriner has also participated in Operations Desert Storm/Shield and Northern and Southern Watch.

In January 1996, Kriner was assigned to the 53rd Fighter Squadron, Spangdahlem AB, Germany. As a squadron and wing weapons officer, Kriner lead the 53rd and USAFE on two separate "firsts": an F-15/F-16 verses MiG-29 deployment to Laage, Germany and a combined deployment to Powdiz, Poland upon that country's entry into NATO.

In December 2000, Kriner became a member of the FLANG and was assigned to the SEADS Det. 1, Tyndall AFB, Fla. While a member of the 95th Fighter Squadron, Kriner served as the 325FW Weapons Officer, 95FS Assistant Director of Operations and then Director for Operations. In August 2003, Kriner became the SEADS Deputy Commander for Operations.

As the SEADS transitions into an AOC, the personnel assigned under his command look forward to serving him as he becomes the "first" commander/director of the only war fighting headquarters AOC manned and operated by the Air National Guard on a full-time basis.



*Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. David R. Barwinski*

Major Gen. M. Scott Mayes, Commander AFNORTH / 1AF, passes the 'flag' of command of the SEADS to Col. David E. Kriner during a formal ceremony June 22.

# Six decades of military service

*By Master Sgt. Charles S. Lake  
WRTC FTE Supervisor*

It survived the influx of troops during World War II, years of rain and water damage, termites and tropical storm winds. What decades of abuse could not topple, an excavator took care of in a few short hours.

The old Weather Readiness Training Center (WRTC), Building 3018, was leveled May 5.

The building began its service life as a World War II troop barracks.

In the post-war years, it served the military in several ways.

It was the first home of the 202nd Red Horse Squadron and during those years, two additional wings were added to the building.

In 1992, 3018 became home to the newly formed Weather Readiness Training Center.

The mission of the school grew from three AGR personnel providing periodic tactical weather classes to a full-time training facility serving the ANG weather community with formal hands-on instruction, tactical training, mobile training teams, and just in time equipment training - all accomplished by a staff of just 19.

The organization outgrew the building and the buildings condition was such that it could no longer serve the military.

No formal celebration marked its "retirement" after more than six decades of faithful service. The building was unceremoniously turned into a pile of scrap metal for recycling and wood that day.

Like the Red Horse personnel before us, we are extremely happy to be in our new facilities.

But for those of us who called Building 3018 home, there is some sadness that goes along with this event.

We will always have memories of the beam that went up through the classroom ceiling to support the sagging roof, the semi-annual swarming of the termites in the block three classroom, the unwelcome building occupants that could chew through student briefcases, doors and carry off small children.

There were the bursting water pipes that would flood the poor resource management directorate (RMD) folks who had the misfortune to work below us. Most of all, we will always remember the students who came through the doors of 3018.

We were in 3018 Sept 11 when we heard the news. It drove home the message that life as a member of the ANG had changed forever. Many of our students have deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

They have come under fire and returned fire...all students of "3018."

We are now in Building 4295. It's made of steel and concrete and the concerns of termites are long gone.

The new, strong facility will ensure that we have the space to train the next several generations of combat weather forecasters - for a lot longer than six decades.



**The old WRTC facility, Building 3018, was leveled May 5.**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy F. Humpal*



# 202RHS: ready for the desert again...

*By Staff Sgt. William S. Nicholls  
202RHS UPAR*

The 202nd RED HORSE Squadron is being called upon again for its second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 202RHS will mobilize in the August/September time frame with members from the 203RHS (VA ANG) and approximately 20 Airmen from "Prime Beef" active Air Force and other Air Guard units. The RED HORSE mission calls for more than 500 Airmen to deploy to Southwest Asia to construct facilities for Joint Forces in 15 locations.

The Air Guard has filled more than 400 slots, but we will have shortfalls from within our membership.

We are asking that if anyone desires to deploy with us, now is the time to ask!

We will need additional Engineering, Vertical and Horizontal Engineers, Vehicle Maintenance, Information Management, Services and Supply

augmentation as a minimum. We may even be able to deploy a preacher!

If your unit will allow you to deploy for up to eight months, we would love to have you. We know you come from an outstanding Wing or Weather Flight/School, Communications Squadron, Sector or other. If you have not deployed before, this will be an experience unlike any you have ever had in your career. If interested contact Capt. Christina Cox at the RED HORSE.

To prepare for the deployment, we'll fire our new M-4 carbines during the UTA's leading up to the deployment.

We'll celebrate Family Day in August with State Headquarters personnel joining us here at Camp Blanding.

September will mark final preparations just prior to mobilizing the balance of those deployable within the squadron.

Wish us luck and God speed as we head to the desert once again!



*Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Charles Wilkie*

Several of the 125SFS members continue to earn high praise and awards while deployed with the 332d Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at Balad AB, Iraq. Shown here; Staff Sgt. Charles W. Wilkie (front row, far right), Senior Amn. Antwan L. Stewart (front row, second from right), Staff Sgt. Timothy W. Bedingfield (second row, second from right) and Staff Sgt. Thomas E. Hollis, Jr. (back row, far right) pose

# The FANG celebrates families

Several units of the Florida Air National Guard slowed the pace a bit during the April UTA to have a little fun and to say thank you to our families and friends for their continued support during Family Day. The 125FW hosted a carnival type event with inflatable kid games, dunk tanks, clowns, Moon Walks, aircraft, military equipment, law enforcement and other displays. Camp Blanding FLANG units and State HQ

personnel joined in the fun. The 290JCSS and the 114ROPS also hosted family days on that same weekend, Sunday, April 9. The 290th enjoyed a picnic type atmosphere too with inflatable kid games and lots of dessert to go around. The 114th enjoyed some time picnicing at the beach playing horseshoes and volleyball at the North Shore Pavilion on the Atlantic Ocean at Patrick AFB.

Above: Children enjoy a ride in Thomas the Train during the 125th Family Day Sunday April 9, 2006.

Below: Major Todd Oller, Lt. Col. Danny Whittington, Lt. Col. Neil Moore, and Master Sgt. Ben Ortiz relax at the beach during the 114th Family Day Sunday April 9, 2006.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Paula Lessard



Photo by Tech. Sgt. (ret.) Karen Strandberg

Above and right: Colonel Scott K. Stacy, 125FW Commander, plays a good sport and gets all wet during the 125th Family Day. To make things a bit more interesting, the water in the dunk tank was straight out of the fire truck and was near freezing temperature!

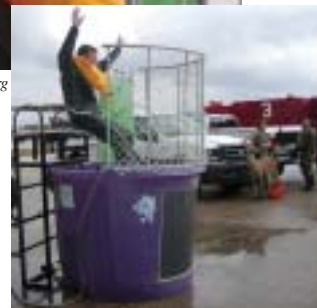


Photo by Tech. Sgt. (ret.) Karen Strandberg







*Photo by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill*

**Above: Technical Sgt. Jennifer L. Koonce, 125th Security Forces Squadron, enjoys one of those special moments with her daughter, Trinity, during the 125th Family Day Sunday April 9, 2006.**

**Below: Chief Master Sgt. Richie Mercado takes a pie in the face at the 290JCSS family day picnic Sunday April 9, 2006.**

*Photo by Master Sgt. Troy Herr*



*Photo by Senior Master Sgt. (ret.) Robert Tanner*

**Above: Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, The Adjutant General of Florida, finally gets his name on a fighter after serving more than 43 years in the FLANG. Burnett flew fighters with the 125th in the late 60's and beyond but never had a plane embossed with his name during his flying days. The Wing fixed that oversight during the 125th Family Day.**



# 125th Civil Engineers deploy to Fort Smith for field training opportunity

*By Senior Master Sgt. Willie Hodges  
125FW Fire and Emergency Services Chief*

For 125th civil engineers, living under field conditions is not a new concept - just a natural part of the job. May 4-7 they deployed to Ft. Smith, Ark. to train in the field again.

For a second year in a row, the squadron's deployment took the unit to a location where field conditions are the norm. At Ft. Smith, 45 CES members trained on mission critical war fighting and technical skills (power pro, EOD, fire protection, HVAC, pavements, structures, utilities, fuels, environmental, engineers, engineer assistance, operations and electrical) all in a bare base environment.

The training will keep the members proficient and prepared if called upon for overseas deployment, a homeland mission or for a Phase II Operational Readiness Inspection.



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. William T. Wilkerson*

**Staff Sgt. Alison M. Fogle, 125th Civil Engineer Squadron, climbs a pole during the training conducted at Ft. Smith, Ark. May 4-7.**



*Photo courtesy of Master Sgt Stephen M. James*

**Members of the 125th Civil Engineer Squadron pose in front of the 125th C-130 at Ft. Smith before returning home May 7.**

Fort Smith is one of five Air National Guard Regional Training Sites whose primary mission is to provide facilities, equipment and cadre to visiting active duty, Guard, Reserve, and Canadian civil engineer squadrons to obtain high quality hands-on training that is almost impossible to obtain at home station due to equipment and logistic short falls.

The 125FW C-130 manned by Lt. Col. John Hayden and his crew provided airlift.

Major Pedro Santiago, 125CES Deputy Commander and commander for the deployment, noted that all personnel received valuable hands-on training that cannot be conducted back at home-station due to equipment requirements. He added, these deployments help build camaraderie, teamwork and esprit de corps.

The fire department received two intensive days of live structural and aircraft fire training and extrication procedures. Santiago, Capt. Mark Keels and Capt. Brian Vitetta also received fire fighting familiarization training. Master Sgt.

Robert Pike, 125CES Fire Department Training Officer, provided the necessary protective fire fighting gear and safety briefing before the three entered the 1200 plus degree burn house.

Pike said "let's send the officers into the burn house first before it really gets hot and the walls retain the heat and temperatures rise and maintain 1400 plus degrees."

During his safety briefing Pike explained even in fire fighting gear, skin temperatures can reach 300 degrees and the vapor barrier liner will keep most of the sweat off the skin, however, if exposed for a long period of time a person could get steam burns to the skin. That's why it's important to knock down the heat first then attack the fire.

Santiago named Master Sgt. Stephen James the "superior performer of the deployment" for his detailed and successful coordination of all the logistics involved. His efforts provided a flawless and smooth training environment.

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## 'New' C-130 on the ramp at the 125th



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

The 125th recently replaced the OSA C-130E - tail # 64-0521 the Wing has flown for about five years, with a "new" WC-130H, tail # 64-4866, due to Air Force requirements. Even though the new C-130 was built the same year as the old one, it boasts 7000 fewer flight hours and better engines that provides additional operational capability to fly higher and faster thus providing the FANG with a more effective aircraft. The new C-130 offers improved aircraft performance, reduced maintenance downtime, and greater compatibility with the total force. It is by and large a more cost effective aircraft for the FANG.



# FLANG members compete in the annual National Guard Marathon

By Senior Master Sgt. Mark A. Penwell  
125FW Contracting Officer

Major Todd Breitmann, Southeast Air Defense Sector Senior Director, and Tech. Sgt. Dace Gordon, 125th Fighter Wing

Accounting represented Florida at the National Marathon Lincoln, Neb.

Team consisted of members, National the two FLANG Guardsmen. Breitmann spearheaded the effort to generate a team for this year's race – a first for Florida according to Brietmann. Breitmann, of Lynn Haven, has competed in an Air Force Marathon and a Marine



Breitmann

Financial Management Liaison, Team annual Guard held in May 7, 2006. Florida five three Army Guard and

Marathon and finished this race in 4 hours 41 minutes.

Gordon of St. Marys, Ga. finished with the second best team time completing the 26.2 mile course in 3 hours and 41 minutes. "It was a great experience..., the weather was perfect and I am inspired to train harder for next years' race" said Gordon.

Other members of the team; Major Rex Painter of Saint Augustine in 3 hours 54 minutes, Class Rowton also of Augustine recorded a 3 minute time Sgt. Viktor Cocoa Beach the fastest team of 3 26 minutes.



Gordon

Rowton finished first in her age group and is one of the 15 females and 40 males who will be part of this year's, "All Guard Marathon Team." Rowton also ensured the team represented Florida well by supplying matching running outfits for each member.

The National Guard Marathon Team started in 1983 with the mission to utilize the members of the "All Guard" Marathon team to promote the National Guard at large running community events.

The team is always looking for new members to increase its size and enhance its talent pool. Interested runners should contact their State marathon coordinator.

The National Guard sponsors five individuals from each state who qualify with certain times.

Congratulations to all the runners and members of Team Florida Marathon squad!

Photos courtesy of Tech. Sgt. Dace Gordon



Members of the National Guard Marathon "Team Florida" pose with the Florida flag in Lincoln, Nebraska during the running event.





## Flying High

*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michael D. Monlezun, Jr.*

The 125th Fighter Wing deployed 12 F-15's and approximately 130 personnel to Hill AFB, Utah June 1-15, to conduct multiple eight-ship Large Force Exercises. Hill AFB, and the 466FS host unit, was chosen because they offered a host of adversaries, surface-to-air missile threat emitters, mountainous terrain, outstanding airspace, and great flying weather. Above, a 125FW F-15 Eagle breaks away from a KC-135 tanker after taking on fuel during one of the 130 plus sorties flown during the deployment.

## RC-26 team deploys to Columbia for the second time in 18 months

*By Lt. Col Mark E. Severson  
125FW RC-26B Program Manager*

The Florida Air National Guard RC-26 team deployed to Columbia, South America for a second time in 18 months this spring to support Operation Enduring Freedom efforts there.

The first time the team deployed they took additional support from the Wing and the State including security, weapons, life support, avionics and weather personnel. This time the team deployed just three officers and two civilian aircraft mechanics. The team was tasked to fly missions in support of 12AF/SOUTHAF. I served as the commander of the 150th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron for the first half of a 90-day deployment that began early in January. The 150ERS deployed 40 personnel to three locations, the US Embassy in Colombia, the CAOC



*Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Mark E. Severson*

RC-26 pilots pose with their aircraft in Columbia. Left to right; Lt. Col. Ronnie Higgins and Lt. Col. Mark Severson, 125FW - FLANG and Maj. Tim Howell, 186ARW - MS ANG, at Davis Mothan AFB, Ariz. and our forward operating location in Colombia. Two RC-26 units deploy together and rainbow personnel from up to 10 additional states to make-up the deployment package for these missions.

# News from HQ

## 'Strong' icon retires from HQ FLANG

By Col. Jeanette B. Booth

HQ FLANG Executive Staff Support Officer

The FLANG said goodbye to a headquarters icon June 2.

Human Resource specialist Mary Kay Strong officially retired after 21 years of service to the Florida National Guard, 16 of which were served as a key member of the Headquarters full-time support staff.

During a retirement ceremony at St. Francis Barracks June 1, Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus, FLANG Commander, presented "Mary Kay" with the Florida Distinguished Service Medal - the highest military award the State can present to a civilian - for exceptional meritorious service to the State of Florida.

When Strong joined the headquarters staff in 1990, there were only four active FLANG units (125FW, 202RHS, 290JCSS and Headquarters) and a fifth unit (114BCS) was in the activation process. At that time HQ serviced a little more than 1,400 personnel. As she retires, her expertise and knowledge will be sorely missed. Strong has been the critical "go-to" person for many personnel actions that have occurred as the FLANG has grown to 10 units and more than 2,000 people.

Strong's long tenure, insight, and candor provided essential continuity of day-to-day operations and essential corporate memory of past policies, procedures and actions which were critical to senior leadership decision making. Widely known for her integrity, and commitment to excellence, she was trusted by her peers and superiors both within the Florida Air National Guard, National Guard Bureau and the Air Reserve Personnel Center.

Our sincerest thanks and best wishes go out to Mary Kay Strong as she begins her well deserved retirement.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas

Larry Strong, Mary Kay's husband, Mary Kay, Brig. Gen. (ret.) Wally Green and Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus, FLANG Commander, pose for a photo during Mary Kay's retirement festivities.

## Recruiting and Retention Superintendent retires after long, groundbreaking career

By Col. Jeanette B. Booth

HQ FLANG Executive Staff Support Officer

The Florida Air National Guard took the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the career of Chief Master Sgt. Iben Phillips during a retirement ceremony at St. Francis Barracks June 16.

Phillips, who officially retired June 30 after 33 years of service to his country, was recognized by Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, the Adjutant General of Florida, for his leadership and contributions to the Florida Air National Guard by the presentation of the Meritorious Service Medal and the Florida Cross (Florida's highest award).

Phillips embraced his role as a senior leader in the Florida Air National Guard and took recruiting and retention to levels of unprecedented success. He received national recognition after convincing the Florida National Guard senior leadership to place all recruiting and retention personnel for its eleven units under his control at State Headquarters.

This initiative brought all recruiters and retainers together on one team, working toward common objectives for the State. As a result, the Florida Air National Guard rose from a 87percent

*Continued next page...*



strength level to 96 percent strength level in just six months.

After one year, the statewide strength level was at a remarkable 102 percent and has remained 100 percent or better for the past five years.

Ultimately, during his 23 years in recruiting, Phillip's efforts played a major role in shaping the Florida Air National Guard of today.

Beginning with his service with the then brand new 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron from ground zero, to gaining the Southeast Air Defense Sector, and finally with his contributions during his 12 years as the Recruiting and Retention Superintendent.

Phillips now plans to bring his expertise to a new 'recruiting' venue.

As the NCOIC of the new Air Force JROTC program at Bartram Trails High School in NW St Johns County, he will be responsible for teaching leadership classes and drill and ceremonies to our nation's future Air Force leaders.



*Photo by Tech. Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas*

Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, the Adjutant General of Florida, pins the Florida Cross on Chief Master Sgt. Iben Phillips during his retirement ceremony at St. Francis Barracks June 16.

## BCHS USAF JROTC members visit the 125th

More than 30 cadets from the BCHS AFJROTC, and their instructors, Maj. Joe Chiofalo and Master Sgt. David Roth, visited the 125th Fighter Wing May 3 for a base tour.

Cadets viewed an F-15 static display and received in-depth briefings on its characteristics and capabilities from Senior Master Sgt. Bobby Owens, Master Sgt. Scott Knight and Master Sgt. Mike Ramsey. After watching the morning F-15 launch, the group toured Avionics (AIS), receiving a back shop briefing from 2nd Lt Dean Diana.

The tour continued to the flight line where Lt. Col. John "Magnum" Hayden wowed the group with the capabilities of the FLANG C-130 Hercules.

A Security Forces intrusion device briefing by Tech. Sgt. Chad Phillips came next followed by a highly entertaining and informative weapons briefing by Master Sgt. Joe Kane.

Chief Master Sgt. Rick Larson rounded out the tour with a life support functions brief.

The group visited other active duty USAF installations this school year but their instructors boasted that this was the best and most thorough tour to date.

The BCHS corps had 119 cadets in this, their inaugural year and look forward to rapid growth.



*Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers*

Members of the Baker County High School JROTC toured the 125th Fighter Wing's facilities May 3, 2006. Here, Master Sgt. Mike Ramsey briefs cadets on the capabilities of the F-15 Eagle.

# Chaplain's Corner

By Lt. Col. Steven E. Thompson  
125FW Chaplain

Hurricane season is here.

Meteorologists will once again repeatedly interrupt our favorite TV programs to inform us a new storm is brewing off the coast of Africa and very well may result in the worst catastrophe in the history of the world!

North America itself might be pushed off its longitudinal and latitudinal axis!

This of course will be followed by an admonition to stay tuned for updates (and revenue generating commercials).

If you think about it, however, we have a lot of hurricane like situations and circumstances going on about us all the time.

There was the ORI hurricane (Hurricane Outstanding!).

We thought things would settle down when it passed, but low and behold, the days following only proved to be a brief, very brief, pause before the next round of deployments and challenges blew upon us.

How about all of your family responsibilities?

Honey-do lists, night courses, part-time jobs; sometimes it seems as if it is just one storm after another!

What is the answer?

I think there are at least two things to remember that can help us maintain our bearings when the world seems spinning out of control around us. First, stay grounded in your family and friends. These relationships are like your roots



and strong roots are essential when chaotic winds blow hard.

Second, realize that just as the wind and rain are necessary for our state's ecosystem to flourish, so too are the stresses that you experience.

God never promised you a life without conflict, but Christ did promise that He was able to effectively deal with your trials (John 16:33). In fact, the first chapter of James affirms that some difficulties are necessary to strengthen us for greater opportunities.

Speaking of God, every tree, flower and blade of grass knows where to turn after the storm has subsided. They seek out and experience restoration from the sun. Guess what ... we can do the same! We too can experience renewal by turning our hearts to God before, during and after our stormy situations.

Never forget: Storms may be inevitable, but God is always available!

There is a peace that passes all understanding.

I pray that you will seek it both professionally and personally.

Watch out for storms. Have a safe, super summer.

God Bless You!  
-Chaplain





# Simple protective clothing saves 125th member during potentially fatal motorcycle crash

*By Senior Master Sgt. Mark A. West  
125CF (Safety Submission)*

On May 18, 2006, at approximately eight in the morning while riding my motorcycle south on I-95 near Ormond Beach, I learned just how valuable personal protective equipment can be.

Earlier that morning, I prepared for my trip in the same manner as previous rides. It was a little cool so I wore an extra long sleeve shirt under my heavy leather jacket. I also wore jeans, leather boots, gloves and my full faced helmet.

I had traveled about 80 miles and was close to my destination when I noticed traffic building behind me in the center lane as I approached a slower moving tractor-trailer. Both right and left lanes were clear so I chose the right lane to move past the tractor-trailer.

As I started to pass, at some point, my front end started to wobble. Any rider who has experienced a high speed wobble can tell you, this is no fun. I recognized what was happening so I backed off the throttle, thought to myself, "no, please no," and pushed to the right of the road, toward the emergency lane.

At this point the front end became crossed up (handle bars turned all the way to the right or left stop position) and the bike went into a high side crash (bike cartwheels rear tire over front) that threw me off.

I don't remember flying through the air.

I do, however, remember sliding on the face of my helmet and the palms of my hands through the emergency lane. I slid into the right-of-way on my stomach with my hands extended over my head. After I came to a stop and the dust cleared, I surveyed myself, picking up my right arm, left leg, etc. when I noticed another motorist had stopped to assist and they put their hand on my back and advised me to stay still.

I did.



*Photo courtesy of Senior Master Sgt. Mark A. West*  
**The gloves West wore on May 18 during his 'adventure.'**



As I lay there, another motorist (a nurse) stopped to assist. She asked if I was OK. Obviously, I was a little sore in some places but soon the EMS team arrived and asked if I could sit up. I believed I could and then I removed my helmet. I thought I could stand and did so and I walked away from the accident with very minor scratches and bruises.

The circumstances and conditions of this accident certainly were in my favor. However my choice to wear the proper protective equipment prior to riding the motorcycle was the second largest factor contributing to my survival and my current quality of life. The largest factor contributing to my survival was simply a miracle!

Riders – my advice to you – wear a full faced helmet, leather clothing, and cover every inch of skin.

Be prepared!



## Security Issues

By Tech. Sgt. Ben Cline  
125FW Antiterrorism Office

In past issues we have discussed identity theft and ways you can safeguard your personal information.

In May 2006, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) learned that an employee took home electronic data from the VA that was stored in his home on a laptop computer and external hard drive.

He was authorized to take this data home.

The employee's home was burglarized and the computer equipment, along with various other items, was stolen.

The electronic data stored on this computer included identifying information for millions of veterans.

Ultimately, the laptop was recovered and FBI forensic experts conducted initial tests on the computer and external drive that showed nothing had been accessed, but forensic examinations are still under way to ensure the integrity of the data.

Though so far this incident turned out to be a false alarm, sometimes false alarms are a way of showing us that we are more vulnerable than we realize.

Although federal investigators believe identity theft has not resulted from the data theft, it is now more than

ever important for you to monitor your credit.

The VA will provide one year of free credit monitoring to people whose sensitive personal information may have been stolen in the recent theft of sensitive data.

The credit monitoring will become available in mid-August. Check the Air Force Personnel Center Web site at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil) to see if your personal data was compromised.

For the latest information on this issue and for more information on how to protect against identity theft, visit [www.firstgov.gov](http://www.firstgov.gov).

## Safety Matters

By Master Sgt. Dana Gaffney  
125FW Safety Office

### The ABC's of Safety:

- **Attitude is your frame of mind when you approach a given situation.**
- **Behavior is what you will do about the situation.**
- **Control refers to making your surroundings safe.**

A safe attitude means staying alert and focused on the job at hand. Don't horseplay or let emotions like anger or frustration get in the way of job performance.

Behavior toward a situation is an important part of being safe.

Following established safety guidelines and procedures, refusing to take "short cuts" or using personal protective equipment are examples of safe behavior.

Control is taking the responsibility of ensuring a safe work environment.

Keep your surroundings clean and neat.

Attitude, behavior and control are the three most important aspects of personal safety on and off the job.

Take a moment to review your safety ABC's to see if you're doing all you can to protect yourself, co-workers and loved ones from injury.

The 3rd Quarter 2006 Outstanding Safety Performance Award winner is MSgt Mathew Rohn, 125CES, and he was awarded with a certificate and a \$25 gift card to Outback Steakhouse. Congratulations!

If you witnessed a safe practice or a 'safety attitude,' nominate that individual by submitting an AF Form 1206, Nomination for Award, to the 125th FW Safety Office.

You may send it by email to [WINGSAFETY@FLJACK.ANG.AF.MIL](mailto:WINGSAFETY@FLJACK.ANG.AF.MIL) or call 904-741-7015.

Safety...it's an attitude!





Photo by Master Sgt. Shaun W. Withers

Ms. Beth Eifert, former Florida Air National Guard Family Readiness Coordinator, was honored with a luncheon in the 125th Fighter Wing Dining Facility June 27 for her four years of dedicated service to the State's family readiness program. Eifert was presented with several gifts and was also awarded the Florida Service Medal by Col. Jeanette B. Booth, FLANG Executive Staff Support Officer for her efforts on behalf of the FLANG's Airmen and families.

## Family Readiness: communication and preparedness go hand in hand

By Mrs. Robin Severson  
FLANG Family Readiness Coordinator

Communication is the key to every healthy relationship – and absolutely vital to successful military separations.

Operations security information you may inadvertently pass over the internet could possibly jeopardize the military member's safety and security.

In emails, do not reference dates, times or places along with the members name, rank or social security number. This applies to telephone conversations as well.

In today's society, there are many ways that the unscrupulous will attempt to gain information.

During the Family Readiness briefing that member's receive prior to deployment, the information filled in on the Commu-

nication Information Form establishes the flow of communication during deployments.

This form goes in your Family Readiness folder. It is a good idea for you to give a copy of the Communication Information Form to your trusted third party (download a copy from [www.fangfamilies.org](http://www.fangfamilies.org)).

The form should include the following at a minimum in case the Red Cross needs to be involved:

- **Guard member's location overseas.**

- **APO AE address of his or her overseas unit (if available).**

- **Unit overseas to which he or she is attached.**

- **Social Security Number; Rank and Pay Grade.**

- **Local Wing/Unit name & Commander name.**

- **Telephone number for the local and national Red Cross offices.**

Maintaining this information on a visor in the car is a good idea.

In the event of an accident, having certain information such as the name of the individual, the fact that he/she is deployed, a unit information point of contact and number of a local family friend contact can help local authorities contact the appropriate people.

# Spotlight on...

## Propulsion

By Tech. Sgt. Michelle L. Thomas  
125FW PA NCOIC

The propulsion element at the 125th Fighter Wing is this edition of The Eagle's Eye spotlight on a specific work area in the FLANG.

Senior Master Sgt. Ted Karst, the shop's supervisor, believes that his people are what make the shop run so smoothly.

"I can send anyone to another area and not have to worry about whether or not there will be any personality conflicts," said Karst.

"My guys just work that well together."

According to Karst, during this year's Operational Readiness Inspection, he and several of his personnel were "farmed out" to work in other areas of the base during the inspection.

Karst knew that although he and other supervisors from the shop would be gone, the shop would run as smooth as if he were there monitoring operations.

"A supervisor is only as good as the people who work for them," said Karst.



Staff Sgt. James M. Fraine (left) and Staff Sgt. Robbie L. Roberts III, aerospace propulsion technicians with the 125th Fighter Wing, work together to tighten a spanner nut in a Central Gear Box (CGB) for a F-15 Eagle engine. The CGB underwent a clutch and break replacement as part of a thorough and intensive preventative maintenance program.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill

The 125FW Propulsion Shop, manned by more than 40 personnel, actually breaks down into several sections. Jet Engine Intermediate Maintenance is the back shop where the engine is torn down and built back up. The Modular Repair Section is the back shop to the back shop. Modules from the engine are broken down and repaired here. Unscheduled Maintenance handles all engine related issues in the F-15 on the flight line. Secondary Power works on start systems and the Test Cell / Hush House are the engine run sections. Pictured left, Master Sgt. Bret A. Sellers, aerospace propulsion technician, inspects a Central Gear Box (CGB) while it is running to test for proper operation.



# FLANGRA / AFA news

By Ernie Webster  
FLANGRA President

FLANGRA and AFA Falcon Chapter members enjoyed a great evening at our April 28 dinner meeting.

Colonel Charlie Campbell, former Southeast Air Defense Sector commander and now 1AF vice commander, gave a very interesting presentation on the new Air Operations Center under construction at Tyndall AFB.

One hundred-thirty-two attendees enjoyed the Surf and Turf as well as good times visiting with friends.

Our next meeting will be Saturday Oct. 21. Our normal Friday evening is booked due to the NAS Jacksonville annual air show. Our planned guest speaker is Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, the new Director of the ANG. We will also present some AFA awards.

The seventh annual AFA Falcon Chapter golf tournament was held May 11 at the Orange Park Country Club.

Sixty players from the AFA, FLANGRA, 125FW and the 202RHS turned out for the event. Players had the choice of playing a scramble or best of two balls format.

The weather was perfect and play went very well. The winners prizes and the door prizes were the best we have had. Many were donated by local businesses and we really appreciate their participation. A silent auction of patriotic and golf legends photos was well received and five of the 11 pictures available sold giving us additional scholarship



*Photo by Maj. Richard E. Bittner*

**FLANG members tee it up at the seventh annual FLANGRA / AFA Falcon Chapter golf tournament held May 11 at the Orange Park Country Club. Pictured left to right: Master Sgt. Philip J. Braswell, 125th Maintenance Operations Flight; Chief Master Sgt. Charles W. Wisniewski, 125th Fighter Wing; Master Sgt. Steven M. Whittaker, HQ FLANG, watch as Lt. Col. Gordon J. Sullivan, 125th Fighter Wing, takes a swing.**

money. Receipts from the tournament totaled nearly \$2500.

The outstanding JROTC cadet from West Nassau, Jackson, Sandalwood, and Forrest High Schools will receive a \$1000.00 scholarship to the college of their choice in part due to the funds raised at the tournament.

Florida Community College Jacksonville at Cecil field also received a \$2000 aviation scholarship.

Additional fund raising helps us sponsor a teacher of the year award.

Baker County High School just started a new AFJROTC program this school year and Bartram Trail High School in St Johns County will add a program in the 2006-07 school year. We plan to include them in our scholarship program so more

funds will need to be raised to support that effort.

We plan to play our next tournament at World Golf Village next year and hope to have even more players so be looking for the announcement in future publications. Many thanks to everyone who played and helped, you made it happen.

We are looking for some new leadership so if you can help it will be greatly appreciated.

I hope each of you have a safe and enjoyable summer. Also, please tell a fellow retiree to plan to join us in October. In April, Jack had more than 40 last minute phone calls and that makes it very difficult to keep the numbers correct, so please mail in your check in time to get on the list.

Hope to see you at our next get together!

# Promotions

## To Colonel

David E. Kriner, SEADS  
Norbert Madera, SEADS  
Scott A. Studer, SEADS

## To Lieutenant Colonel

Philip J Campbell, 325FW Assoc Unit  
Craig E. Dye, SEADS

## To Major

Terry L. Robinson, SEADS

## To Captain

Carl R. Guckenberger, Jr., 125LRS

## To Second Lieutenant

Benjamin A. Sorrells, 125MXS

## To Chief Master Sgt.

Douglas J. Gilbert, 202RHS  
Alan V. Hearn, SEADS  
Jeffrey L. Lindsey, 202RHS

## To Senior Master Sgt.

Donald E. Guerra, 125AMXS  
Brian F. Howard, 202RHS  
Roger R. LeBlanc, 202RHS  
Orazio R. Longo, 114ROPS  
Kerry M. Olson, SEADS

## To Master Sgt.

Jose R. Araiza, 290JCSS  
Gene A. Aultman, 125MXS  
Authur C. Busch, 125SFS  
Jerry L. Cooper, SEADS  
Erick R. Gonzalez, 202RHS  
Sarah B. Kraus, 125MOF  
Michael F. Lowery, 125MXS  
Augusto A. Maura, 202RHS  
Michael J. Nettles, 125SFS  
Jeffrey L. Stanley, 202RHS  
Ruth Vasco, 114ROPS

## To Technical Sgt.

Akintunde O. Akintewe, 114ROPS  
Corey G. Blue, 125CF

Carl R. Boulding, 202RHS

Marcus Burgos, 125CF

Mark D. Collins, 125MXS

Angelique Devine, SEADS

Stephen L. Dudra, 125CF

Wendy A. Gladfelter, SEADS

Brandon J. Grubb, 125AMXS

Christopher D. Henderson, 125AMXS

Donald E. Pettyjohn, 202RHS

Dayne J. Pritchard, 125MXS

Timothy A. Scarborough, 202RHS

Jeffrey J. Trumble, 125CF

## To Staff Sgt.

Samuel A. Almengor, 114ROPS

Conrad A. Berganza, 290JCSS

Brian J. Canard, 114ROPS

Aaron P. Chasse, 125AMXS

Jared M. Cramblet, SEADS

Kenneth M. Creager, 125MXS

Laurens W. Jones II, 159WF

Kathryn W. Hughes, SEADS

Glendalis R. Mercado, 290JCSS

Alex R. Michel, 290JCSS

Michael T. Moleta, 125MXS

Joseph S. Pittano, 290JCSS

Daniel A. Redman, 125CES

Aaron C. Simonds, SEADS

Joseph O. Strother, 125LRS

## To Senior Airman

Marcus W. Holling IV, 125AMXS

Jaclyn D. Jacola, 125FW

Anthony J. Levitsky, 290JCSS

Daniel L. Shirk, 290JCSS

## To Airman First Class

Louis M. Tutt IV, 125SFS



## Welcomes

Major Mindi M. Oliver, SEADS  
Capt Sara A. Shirley, 125FW  
MSgt John G. Reed, SEADS  
TSgt Shawn Allen, 125SFS  
TSgt Geri W. Austin, 125SVF  
TSgt Jason P. Barbour, SEADS  
TSgt Tyrone Grant, 290JCSS  
TSgt Bruce N. Hartke, 125MXS  
TSgt Len F. Lucero, 125AMXS  
TSgt Edward H Thomas, 125AMXS  
TSgt Cynthia N. Turk, HQ FLANG  
SSgt Shannon L. Baldock, 125SFS  
SSgt Lucas C. Buehrer, 125LRS  
SSgt Cory J. Calzadilla, 114ROPS  
SSgt Wifredo Candelaria, Jr., 290JCSS  
SSgt Sarah M. Dietz, 290JCSS  
SSgt Laura B. Forgione, 125MDG  
SSgt Chad E. Guillet, 114ROPS  
SSgt Christopher B. Hamilton, 125MDG  
SSgt David McQuary, 114ROPS  
SSgt Israel Velez, 159WF  
SrA William R. Coyle, 125CES  
SrA Clifford F. Fallico, SEADS  
SrA John Y. Fishel, 202RHS  
SrA Julio Flores, 159WF  
SrA Benjamin L. Humphrey, 125MXS  
SrA Aimee L. Jones, 290JCSS  
SrA Laurens W. Jones, 159WF  
SrA Michael R. Lopez-Martinez, 290JCSS  
SrA Gina L. Rodriguez, 125MSF  
SrA Maria M. Rosario, 290JCSS  
SrA Jaymie L. Spector, 290JCSS  
SrA Tyler R. Straate, 125AMXS  
SrA Matthew A. Teitsort, 125MXS  
SrA Salvatore J. Tufaro, 290JCSS  
A1C Joshua R. Anderson, 290JCSS  
A1C Terrence A. Becton, 202RHS  
A1C Steven L. Damato, 125CES  
A1C Orlando Diaz, 202RHS  
A1C Alec S. Ferguson, 125AMXS  
A1C Christopher P. Matos, 114ROPS  
A1C Lara S. Rutherford, 125CES  
A1C Bryan M. Wright, 125SFS

## Farewells

Lt Col Gustavo B. Diaz, 202RHS  
Major Danny R. Beeson,  
125AMXS  
Major Christopher Bembenick, 159FS  
CMSgt Michael A. Germain, 114ROPS  
CMSgt Iben H. Phillips, Jr., HQ FLANG  
CMSgt Tony R. Senterfitt, SEADS  
SMSgt Robert J. Bransford, 125MXS  
SMSgt John B. Whitten, 125LRS  
MSgt Michael W. Baynard, SEADS  
MSgt Pedro L. Borrero, Jr., 125CES  
MSgt Lisa R. Casenove, SEADS  
MSgt Robert R. Dick, 114ROPS  
MSgt Johnny B. Gore, 125MXS  
MSgt Steven C. Hall, 114ROPS  
MSgt William B. Jefferson, 125CES  
MSgt Richard S. Morrison, 125SFS  
MSgt Paul S. Peltonben, SEADS  
MSgt Mark J. Perry, 125SFS  
MSgt Solomon D. Sheffield, 125SFS  
MSgt Andrew J. Williams, SEADS  
MSgt Lloyd A. Wilson, Jr., 290JCSS  
TSgt Robert L. Carter, Jr., 202RHS  
TSgt Jesus M. Cruz, 125FW Det 1  
TSgt Richard K. Gonterman, 125AMXS  
TSgt Theodore J. Krupski, 290JCSS  
TSgt Rowland B. Seckinger, 125AMXS  
TSgt Mary J. Sowerby, 125MDG  
SSgt Scott J. Boever, 125AMXS  
SSgt David L. McSpadden, Jr., SEADS  
SSgt Sherry A. Most, 125LRS  
SSgt Dana J. Pilling, 202RHS  
SSgt Thomas K. Vonderhaar, 125LRS  
SSgt Jessey P. Welch, 202RHS  
SSgt George R. Wood, 202RHS



**The Eagle's Eye  
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125<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing (ACC)  
14300 Fang Drive  
Jacksonville, Florida 32218-7933**

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